


REMARKSObjection to the claims

Claim 5 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. The Examiner stated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form comprising each of the limitations of the claim upon which it was dependent. Applicants have canceled claim 5 and incorporated the limitation of claim 5 into previous claim 1. The currently amended claim 1 incorporates all of the limitations of previous claim 5. Applicants therefore believe that currently amended claim 1 should be allowable as well as dependent claims 3, 4, and 7.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are now believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendment and arguments, it is submitted that claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark K. Johnson Reg. No. 35,909  
Mirus  
505 South Rosa Road  
Madison, WI 53719  
608-238-4400

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent  
by facsimile transmission to: Commissioner for  
Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
on this date: 3/18/2004.

  
Kirk Ekena